

DoE stops construction of 30-storey illegal bldg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday penalised a developer with a Tk 32 lakh fine for constructing a 30-storey commercial building in the capital without any environmental clearance.

It also fined a private housing company, Purbachal Probashi Polli, Tk 25 lakh for illegally undertaking a housing project at Rugganj in Narayanganj without the environmental clearance.

A DoE enforcement team detected that the developer, Borak Real Estate Ltd, had not obtained the civil aviation's clearance in building the high-rise, DCC-Unique Complex, in Banani.

DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, who handed down the penalty, ordered the Borak authorities to stall the construction work immediately until mandatory clearances are obtained from the government agencies concerned.

Borak was supposed to build a 14-storey building as per the lease deed with Dhaka North City Corporation, but they had already

built 27 floors, said Munir.

As per the environmental law, the developer was required to obtain site clearance before commencing the construction work, he said.

Mimshad Rahman, director of Borak Real Estate Ltd, said the city corporation that owns the land was supposed to obtain all the required clearances from the government as per the contract.

About the height of the building, he said though the lease deed was for a 14-storey building, the chief engineer of the city corporation approved a 30-storey drawing.

In another drive at Rugganj, the DoE team detected that 98 percent proposed site of Purbachal Probashi Polli's housing project was submerged in water, where local people catch fish.

The DoE team had dismantled the project's signboards and ordered closure of all its activities there.

DoE Director Munir said the Probashi Polli authority runs the housing scheme as Adnan Satellite City and thus deceive the ordinary people.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia meets Chinese Foreign Minister He Yang Jiechi at the latter's office in Beijing yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

14 held for fraudulence in HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday held 14 people from the High Court premises for fraudulence after an HC order.

The detainees are Ashraf, Mawla, Gulzar, Tuhin Kiah, Khairuzzaman, Bikul, Dulal Matubbor, Mirza, Obaidul Mollah, Mahub, Kalam Matubbor, Masud, Firoz and Hafizur of Nagarkanda in Faridpur.

The detainees, who appeared before an HC bench for bail in an attempted murder case, suppressed information to the court about an earlier order that rejected their another bail petition last week.

The HC gave the order after Assistant Attorney General Ali Jinnah informed the court about the fraudulence.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 7th death anniversary of M A Samad, the founder director of Bangladesh Insurance Academy.

His family members have requested all friends, well-wishers and relatives to pray for the peace of the departed soul, said a press release.

Samad, also former chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, was enlisted as an international expert in the technical assistance programme on trade and development of the United Nations.

After retirement as managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation, he established Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited (BGIC). He was born at Kulaura of Moulvibazar in 1923.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL), hands over a cheque to the guardian of a mentally challenged student at Cirdap auditorium in the capital on Monday. FSIBL distributed 50 scholarships among poor mentally challenged school students.

PHOTO: COURTESY

New envoy to Indonesia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Nazmul Quaunine as the ambassador of Bangladesh to Indonesia, said a foreign ministry press release.

He is currently serving as the ambassador to the UAE.

Nazmul earlier served the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN in Geneva and Bangladesh High Commissions in Islamabad and London.



LAND DISPOSSESSION

Give farmers addl benefits

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS

Farmers who are dispossessed of their lands and relocated for infrastructural developments must be provided with additional benefits along with financial compensation, academics opined at an international workshop yesterday.

They called for enactment of a law and effective policy to protect farmlands from being used for infrastructural developments without control.

Bielefeld University and Dhaka University (DU) jointly organised the workshop, "Controversial Democratic Spaces: Land, Environment and Human Rights in Bangladesh", at DU Senate Bhaban.

Panel speaker Prof Rehman Sobhan said that in addition to cash compensations, the farmers should be offered lifelong benefits from their lands used for developmental measures.

"All land should be... legally recognised as its owner's (farmers) equity, whenever it is acquired either for public or even private development," he said.

"All such owners must be guaranteed an

equity stake in the development of their acquired land, whether this be for the Padma Bridge, an export processing zone or a real estate development project."

Prof Sobhan also recommended identifying khas lands under illegal occupation and a strategy for distribution of the lands among the land poor and landless farmers.

Keynote speaker Dr Ridwanul Hoque of Department of Law, Dhaka University, said, "The rule of law to protect Bangladeshi farmers needs stronger enforcement as 10 percent of agro land has been reduced in the last decade."

Citing a research, he said, "70 percent of the civil suits are land-related and most of these litigations turn out to be futile, as many of them are based on false allegations or just due to mistakes, corruptions or twisting of documents relating to land."

Dr Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, research group director of Social Anthropology at Bielefeld University, said, "Land grabbing is done by the powerful elite in a democracy which oppresses the land poor and landless majority. Such post-colonial, oppressive practices go against the idea of democracy itself."

RUPAYAN
Fair On 17-18 Oct '12 9am to 7pm @
বড়ো আনন্দ মেলা
ফ্রি! ফ্রি!
RUPAYAN Housing Estate Ltd
01811 48 55 34, 01811 48 55 77, 01811 48 55 83, 01811 48 55 22
01811 48 55 33, 01811 48 55 44, 01190 04 55 03
RUPAYAN Centre, Corporate : 02 8822526 Chittagong : 03 12516760
72, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Motijheel : 02 9556320 Comilla : 08161986
Narayanganj : 7635200 Sylhet : 08212832092

Arrest persons for 'fatwa' on housewife

HC directs police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police to arrest the people responsible for imposing a fatwa on a housewife at Mirsarai in Chittagong.

In response to a petition, the HC ordered the police also to file a case in this connection, if the victim, Asma Aktar, had not filed it yet.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, filed the petition earlier yesterday following media reports. He sought necessary directives over the matter.

According to a 2010 HC verdict, causing mental and physical torture to anyone by imposing a fatwa is illegal.

After the hearing yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to take action against those responsible for the fatwa incident.

The court also asked the police to give protection to Asma, who had been hiding to save her life from those who issued the fatwa, and submit a compliance report to the HC in a week.

Mahfuzul Haque, a local union parishad member and the ruling Awami League leader of Nayduaria, along with some of his supporters at a village arbitration declared that stones will be thrown on Asma after putting her into a chest-deep hole in the ground, media reports said.

The arbitration was held on October 2 after Asma had filed a case against Mahfuzul and his aides on charges of sexual harassment in July. They reportedly abused her some days before the filing of the case.

After the hearing yesterday, the HC also summoned the officer-in-charge of Mirsarai Police Station and Mahfuzul Haque to appear before it on November 5 and explain their roles over the fatwa incident.

Sufficient funds for agri sector sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate adequate funds for agriculture sector to ensure food security in the country, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Small and marginal farmers should be provided with necessary items for farm work such as seeds and fertilisers in a subsidised price by the government, they said.

Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS) of Dhaka University and Oxfam Bangladesh jointly organised the programme marking the World Food Security Day 2012 at DU RC Majumder auditorium.

DU IDMVS Director Prof Mahbuba Narseen read out a keynote paper.

With Prof HKS Arefin in the chair, DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the programme, among others.

Ventura Valencia at Dhanmondi
the place you call home
find your own home from our range of excellent apartments in many great locations at
Baridhara 3150/3500 SFT North Gulshan 4000 SFT
Gulshan 2240 SFT Banani DOHS 2650/5300 SFT
Dhanmondi 1670-4200 SFT Banani 1850 SFT
Uttara 1800-2350 SFT Bashundhara 1850/2050 SFT
1 SPT - 0.0929 SQ. M
8833393 (H), 0171 3434 011-13
Ventura properties www.venturab.com

SAMSUNG
Samsung GALAXY Note II | Be creative
Intelligent S-Pen | Large & Vivid Display | Rich Service Solution
Pre-book and Win*:
• Wonderful flip cover
• Premium 3G package from Teletalk
For pre-booking visit: www.facebook.com/samsungmobilebangladesh
For pre-booking confirmation, visit Samsung Smartphone Café : Dhaka: Gulshan Avenue (Casablanca); Bashundhara City, L1 (Shop # 5-6 & 46), L6 (Shop # 1-2, 12-13); New Elephant Road; Shimanto Square; North Tower; Eastern Plaza; Khilgaon (near Taitola Super Market); Fortune Shopping Mall (Malibagh); Shantinagar (near Twin Tower Shopping Complex); Karwan Bazar; Purana Paltan; Plaza A.R. (Dhanmondi); Fakirapool Chowrasta | Chittagong: Sanmar Ocean City; Biponi Bitan; Akhtaruzzaman Centre | Sylhet: Karimullah Market Comilla: Eastern Yakub Plaza | Tangal: B.B. Girls' School Road | Rajshahi: Kadirganj (near Nagar Bhaban) | Rangpur: Zilla Parishad Super Market | Bogra: Yakub Ali Moar; TMSS Mobile Market | Feni: Grand Huq Tower | Narayanganj: Aman Bhaban, B.B. Road | Mymensingh: Press Club Market | Jessore: M.K. Road Barisal: Sadar Road (Kakoli Moar) | Kushtia: Lovely Tower | Khulna: K.D.A. Avenue
2 YEARS WARRANTY
*Conditions apply. The above is a simulated image.
Bitopi/Leo Burnett/190/356/12